

III. REMARKS

1. Applicant respectfully requests that prosecution in this application be re-opened, and hereby submits this amendment together with a Request for Continued Examination.

2. Claims 1-22 are amended.

3. Claims 1-8 and 10-22 are not unpatentable over the combination of Bush and Houser.

The claims are amended to recite detecting control information in the form of one or more spoken commands at the system, identifying the detected control information and automatically identifying at least one application device associated with the detected control information, executing a command corresponding to the detected control information in an identified application device if the detected control information is associated with one application device, providing a prompt for additional control information if the detected control information is associated with more than one application device, and upon detecting a selection of an application device from the more than one application device, executing a command corresponding to the detected control information in the selected application device. At least these features are not disclosed or suggested by the combination of Bush and Houser.

Bush discloses the control of one or more devices using voice commands. However, while Bush speaks to controlling multiple devices, Bush first requires that the device to be controlled be manually selected by the user. Then, a vocabulary corresponding to the selected device becomes the active dictionary. Bush allows the user to select a device using a voice command (TV, VCR, Stereo). Once the specific device is selected by the user, the dictionary corresponding to the selected device becomes the active dictionary, and subsequent commands will then control the selected device. This is not the same as, or similar to what is claimed by Applicant, where a spoken command is detected, it is automatically determined which application device the command

corresponds to, and the command is then executed in the corresponding application device. Thus, Applicant's claimed subject matter provides at least the advantage that the application device does not need to be selected by the user. Rather, the association between a command and the corresponding application device(s) is automatically determined.

Houser also does not disclose or suggest at least this particular feature. In Houser, a single device can be controlled by voice commands. Houser only discloses that one device can be controlled at any one time. There is no disclosure in Houser related to interpreting a detected command, automatically identifying the corresponding application device, and executing the command in the device as is claimed by Applicant.

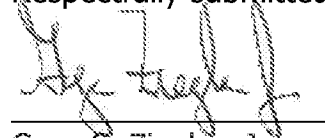
Thus, since neither Bush nor Houser disclose or suggest at least this feature claimed by Applicant, their combination cannot as well, and a *prima facie* of obviousness pursuant to 35 USC 103(a) is not established.

4. Claim 9 is not unpatentable over the combination of Bush, Houser and Osawa at least by reason of its respective dependency.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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